

John Roberts

Amiscomby 28th Dec 1825

FITZGERALD [I.R.]

Political and Private life



DEATH of the MARQUIS of LONDONDERRY.
"Bankhead, let me Fall upon your Arm.—'Tis all over"

THE
POLITICAL AND PRIVATE
LIFE

OF THE

Marquess of Londonderry,

LATE

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c. &c.

INCLUDING

Most important and authentic Particulars

OF HIS

Last Moments and Death;

WITH NUMEROUS

ANECDOTES AND REFLECTIONS,

Illustrative of the History of the Noble Lord.

BY T. P. FITZGERALD, ESQ.

“ Nothing extenuate,
“ Nor set down aught in malice.”—SHAKSPEARE.

Dublin :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. O'NEIL

17, CHANCERY-LANE,

And may be had of all the Booksellers.

1822.

—♦♦♦♦—
PRICE TEN-PENCE.

Acc 75-479

STATE DEPARTMENT

RB DA522.035F5T

Department of State

Office of the Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

January 15, 1952

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of January 10, 1952.

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On January 10, 1952, the following information was received:

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Very truly yours,

Secretary of State

Enclosure

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20520

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2025-10-15

LIFE

OF THE

Late Marquess of Londonderry.

NO event was calculated to excite so deep a sensation as the sudden death of the Marquess of Londonderry. No individual filled so large a space in the public eye, and, it may be added, in the eye of Europe. His name has been associated with the most extraordinary events of the last twenty-five years. The sudden removal of an individual of such various and important connections, naturally excites the deepest interest, and has left a chasm in the affairs of the world, which cannot be easily supplied.

Death, in its least revolting forms, is a great peace-maker; but, in the melancholy end of the Marquess of Londonderry, the circumstances are so painful, that they must, for a time, at least, disarm resentment of its rancour, and abate the opprobrium which some attach to his memory. It is painful to think that, within a short period, three of the most prominent figures in the historic gallery of their country, have, in the yet unimpaired maturity of their talents, been called away by the same melancholy visitation—the most fearful consequence of temporary alienation of mind! We allude to the deaths of Mr. Whitbread, Sir Samuel Romilly, and the subject of this memoir, all of whom suffered by their own hands, while under the influence of mental delusion. This is a sad reflection; and if to the three eminent individuals we have named, we call to mind the short illnesses which carried off Fox and Pitt, it must be allowed that there is something in the deaths, at least of public men, not likely to excite the envy of their cotemporaries, and that neither high place, reputation, popularity, nor professional distinction, afford to the possessor, enjoyments unmingled with the bitterness of human calamities.

The family of the late Marquess of Londonderry is descended from Sir Thomas Stewart, of Minto, second son of Sir William Stewart, of Garlies, ancestor of the Earls of Galloway. His great grandfather William Stewart, Esq. of Ballylawn-Castle, (whose ancestor, John Stewart, Esq. had a grant from Charles I. of the manor of Stewart-Court, where he erected the Castle

of Ballylawn,) took an active part in maintaining the interests of William III. on the expulsion of that monarch's father-in-law, James II. The father of the Marquess was created Baron Londonderry, 1789; Viscount Castlereagh, 1795; Earl of Londonderry, 1796; and Marquess of Londonderry a few years since. He was the eldest son of the first Marquess of Londonderry, (to whose title he succeeded on the death of his father last year,) by his first lady, sister to the late Marquess of Hertford.

He was born June 18, 1769, and consequently was in the 53d year of his age. He received his early education at Armagh, under Archdeacon Hurrock; and, at seventeen, was entered at St. John's College, Cambridge. In his youth he was distinguished for the decision and intrepidity of character, which formed the most remarkable traits in his subsequent life. It is recorded of him, that in a boating excursion with his tutor, to whom he was much attached, the latter having fallen, by accident, into the water, careless of danger he plunged in after him, and was the means of rescuing the unfortunate man, perhaps from death. After remaining for the usual time at the University, he made a tour on the Continent, and on his return to his native country, entered on that political career which has since been so successful. He commenced as a supporter of popular principles, and was installed in whig and reform clubs, and even became an United Irishman. When scarcely 21 years of age he offered himself a candidate to represent the county of Down, in which his father's estates lay, and where his father's influence could be best exerted. The contest was long and keen; but, by the aid of the long purse of the old Marquess, (whose pretensions to the peerage had not till then been discovered,) and great pretensions to patriotism, he carried his election. That he must then have been popular, we may easily believe; for, we have his *written* pledge on the hustings, that he would support the cause of parliamentary reform; and certainly, if *reform* could be taken in the Cromwellian sense of the word, he kept his pledge, for he *dissolved* the parliament of which he became a member.

The noble Lord has often been reproached with his early apostacy, and his excuse has been "the unreflecting enthusiasm of youth," and the extension of the right to voting to Catholics; which, according to his Lordship's explanation, accomplished all that he ever meant by parliamentary reform. However this may be, it is a matter of no great moment. In an age like ours, when veteran stagers change sides with so much effrontery—when profession of patriotism is assumed

only as offering the most graceful and interesting portion for a youthful debutante, and the shortest road to emolument and court favour—such a circumstance is hardly worth remembering.

On the appointment of the Marquess Camden (whose sister his father had married for a second wife) to the lord lieutenancy of Ireland, he caught a glimpse of the seductions of office, and the rewards of inordinate ambition. On the Viceroy's arrival in Ireland, he declared in favour of his administration, and became his chief secretary. Lord Charlemont thus writes to a friend, shortly after the arrival of Lord Camden, on the subject of this memoir, then Mr. Stewart;—"I have seen Robert (Mr. Stewart), and have given him but little comfort with regard to his friend's administration. I cannot but love him (Mr. Stewart)—but, why so *Be-Pitted?*" From that period to the completion of the Union, the administration of Ireland was committed with a succession of difficulties, which required both wisdom and firmness to overcome.

The first occasion on which the noble Lord played a conspicuous and active part, was the Irish rebellion. The Secretary was the visible and acting arm of Government; and on him the odium of all that was done by the ruffian satellites beneath, and the council above, naturally devolved. Whether he was or was not the encourager of the system of torture that was carried on during the period of his government, is a question that has been much talked of—we cannot say discussed. That torture was carried on, "that punishments were inflicted for the purpose of obtaining confession," (the appropriate definition of torture), "it would be," to use the words of his friend, Mr. Claudius Beresford, "base and unmanly to deny;" but, it was asserted that this torture was only to be considered the act of *private* persons, availing themselves, during the time of anarchy, of all means, legal or illegal, for their own defence. On this ground it was, that, in one of the last debates of this last session, Lord Londonderry explained the acts of torture, and justified the government for having granted an indemnity to the authors of them. The facts which threw on Lord Castlereagh the suspicion of having been an encourager of the system of violence and outrage, were these:—In the early part of the year 1798 (in January), Sir Ralph Abercromby, commander-in-chief in Ireland, issued general orders, complaining of the undiscipline of the army, which "rendered it formidable to all but the enemy;" and gave the strictest directions for the troops to abstain from military interference, without authority of the civil power. Shortly afterwards a letter was sent from the Irish government to the commanders of corps, apparently in contradiction to

these orders of the Commander-in-chief, directing them to disperse all assemblies of people, armed or unarmed, which *they might judge tumultuous or seditious*. This measure was supposed to be extorted from the Government by the fears of the *loyal party*. Sir Ralph Abercromby resigned; Mr. Pelham, the secretary, also showed symptoms of uneasiness, and resigned, and Lord Castlereagh was appointed his successor, and coercion was carried on, even in the city of Dublin.

It was remarkable that this was the only topic which ever ruffled his temper in debate. An imputation upon him for his share in Irish politics at that period, thrown out from the opposition benches, instantly called the blood into his cheeks, and drew from him such an answer as apprised the assailant he was treading upon more delicate and perilous ground than that of ordinary political contention. We shall leave the subject for the present, and come to the next important measure of his Lordship's administration—the union of his native country with England. In the Irish Parliament—that assembly where there was all the declaration that was inconsistent with sincerity—where there were all the personality and passion that were inconsistent with deliberation, did Lord Castlereagh rise, night after night, the cool and imperturbable organ of the measures of Government. The part he took in bringing about the Union, is well known. Of the policy of that measure we say nothing; but it is worth while to remark, that some of the leading ranks that disputed with the Government so obstinately the ground, which they were at last compelled to yield, and who solemnly denounced as an enemy to *human rights*, the perpetrator of this parricide, did not afterwards refuse to whisper their concurrence with the Irish policy of the Noble Lord, and move in his wake with the most insignificant of them all.

His address and management beyond the walls of parliament, his application to the feelings and ambition of the different parties whose opinions, prejudices, or interests were opposed to his object, and his presence of mind, his coolness of temper and dexterity, if not eloquence in debate, pointed him out as a valuable assistant to any ministry that might be disposed to accept of his services. Accordingly, having become a member of the Imperial Parliament, after the union, which annihilated the theatre in which he had previously figured, he was, by Mr. Pitt, promoted to the head of the Board of Controul, and made a privy counsellor. This appointment, we believe, he re-accepted under Lord Sidmouth, who succeeded Mr. Pitt, and retained it under Mr. Pitt, who succeeded Lord Sidmouth. Before Mr. Pitt's death he was

advanced to the high situation of minister of war, which he retained till, on that minister's death, he was obliged, with "all the other clerks in office," as the *debris* of Mr. Pitt's cabinet were called, to resign in favour of Mr. Wyndham, who composed part of the united administration of Mr. Fox and Lord Grenville. As he advanced in preferments, he would seem to have become less a favourite with his original constituents, for, after a long and expensive contest, he lost his election for Down, on being made minister of war, and was obliged to come in for Boroughbridge. On the resignation of the Grey and Grenville administration, in 1807, he resumed his former situation of minister of war, in which he continued till the ill-starred Walcheren expedition, and his duel with Mr. Canning drove him from office.

His Lordship charged Mr. Canning with want of *faith* and *honour* in his conduct towards him—that Mr. Canning obtained a promise, on his personal solicitation, that Lord Castlereagh should be removed from office—and that, with this promise *in his pocket*, he not only concealed the whole affair from Lord Castlereagh, but permitted him to remain in this state of delusion, to continue to conduct the entire arrangement of the campaign, and to engage in a new expedition of the most important, extensive, and complicated nature, under the full persuasion, that he enjoyed Mr. Canning's liberal and *bona fide* support as a co-operating colleague. Mr. Canning answered the demand for a meeting without delay. The conduct of the noble Viscount was that of a man of honour; though that of his adversary, in the opinion of many, did not appear to bear out the accusations which had been made against him. The result of the *rencontre* was a wound received by Mr. Canning in the thigh.

On the death of Mr. Perceval, in 1811, he obtained that influence in his Majesty's councils, and occupied that office in which he continued till his death. Our continental missions were placed entirely under his disposition. His noble presence, the dignity of his manner, fitted him for the association of kings. As plenipotentiary extraordinary to the continent, at different times, his conduct, as representative of this nation, has been much praised. The House of Commons met him, as he returned, with expressions of applause, such as no event could be expected to elicit from that body. Being foreign minister when our foreign exertions were the most enormously extensive, and the most strikingly successful, and acting as our negotiator when Europe, which had been composed and re-adjusted by our councils, he had opportunities which few ministers have enjoyed of displaying

the talents of a great statesman, and meriting the honours of a great benefactor to his country and to mankind. We shall not traverse the annals of the last eight years to ascertain how far he employed these opportunities to the public advantage. The future historian, who will find his name to more treaties and conventions for clipping the boundaries, impairing the rights, or annihilating the existence of independent states, and to fewer for promoting commerce, or aiding the struggles of liberty, than any other minister for the last century, will be able to do him justice.

The part which he took in the measures of last session, are too recent to require observation. As if destined to witness the last sanction to those acts which are destined to be the last public acts of his life, he attended the speaker at the bar of the House of Lords, to witness the prorogation of Parliament by the Sovereign.

The first occasion on which the noble Marquess became known to the English public, was that of his seconding the address to the King, on the memorable 29th of October, 1795. The session of parliament was opened on that day: the chief object of calling it together at that early period of the year was, in the first place, to mitigate the evil, arising from the scarcity of corn, which then prevailed throughout the country, and, in the next place, to adopt vigorous measures for putting a stop to the meetings of vast bodies of people, which, at that time, had been held in the vicinity of the metropolis, under the direction of the Corresponding Society, and which were represented by the ministers as seditious and treasonable. The outrageous attack made that day on his Majesty, while he was proceeding to open the Parliament, was dwelt upon as a complete justification of the severe acts afterwards passed for the above purpose. The address, in answer to the King's message, was moved in the House of Commons by Lord Dalkeith, and seconded by the subject of these memoirs, in a speech of moderate length, which was his maiden speech, and held out no promise, either in point of eloquence or argument, of future excellence. The speech excited very little attention, and no one afterwards thought of him, until, with his new title of Lord Castlereagh, he commenced his career in the Irish House of Commons, which terminated in his carrying the great measure of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland. On his afterwards taking a leading part in the discussions of the united Parliament, he lost nothing of the character which he had acquired, while at the head of the administration of the sister country. Although there were, at times, great inequalities in his style

of speaking, yet, on some occasions, when it fell to his lot to bring forward questions of great national importance, he rose with the magnitude of his subject, and gave an ample display of eloquence, of ingenious argument, and political information. His speech, about fifteen years ago, on the necessity of adopting restrictive measures for suppressing insurrection in Ireland, was a master-piece of this kind. He not only appeared to entertain a magnanimous contempt for popularity, but while he met the taunts of his opponents with a mingled feeling of placid indifference and proud defiance, he never abated one particle of the vigorous determination with which he set about the adoption of any public measure, which he conceived necessary for giving increased strength to the government. With these bold and decisive qualities, no man who presided on the ministerial bench ever treated his opponents with more good temper or gentlemanly complacency. In his intercourse with persons of all parties, and even his inferiors, he was easy of access, polite, affable, and dignified; so that those, who disliked him as a politician, could not avoid entertaining a high degree of partiality towards him as a man.

In some things we admired Lord Londonderry, in others we viewed his conduct with abhorrence. We admired particularly his skilfulness in withstanding, in the House of Commons, the attacks of the Opposition. In the debates, we have often thought that we could perceive he had, by his calmness and his patience, driven some of the opposition members almost to despair. In a few instances, we remember some of them were apparently so galled, as almost to bring from them the words, "We wish we could get you out of the ministry, that we might get into it ourselves." His Lordship's missions to, and negotiations with, foreign countries, take them generally, were successful. He conducted himself with that firmness, which he could consistently display, as being the representative of one of the most politically commanding countries in the world. In all his Lordship's negotiations, we do not remember a drawback from their skill, hazarded either by the Opposition, or by the recorded sayings of Bonaparte; except his not having seized proper opportunities for making what are called *commercial treaties*; particularly with States, which England at the time had almost within her grasp. For this omission, his Lordship has been repeatedly called to account. This very omission, in our opinion, so far from being a blot on his political sagacity, was the very best part of his character as a diplomatist; knowing of what odd materials human nature is composed, especially in a commercial respect. Commercial treaties are *all*

farces; they will just last as long as it may suit the interests of the contractors, or the fancies of their subjects. If the women of France should take it into their heads, that the United States cotton stockings would fit the shape of their ankles better than English cotton stockings, the most specious commercial treaty that ever was signed by Lord Londonderry, and by Prince Talleyrand, could not prevent them from having the United States cotton stockings. Nay, we verily believe that if there were a commercial treaty, obliging the people of France to consume such and such articles of British manufacture, the very reverse would be the consequence (such is the perversity of human nature), and the inhabitants would vow to have nothing whatever to do with our manufactures. Such, we believe, would be the case with the people of England, should the Chinese insist on our making a treaty with them to use their tea. Under such compulsory circumstances, to refrain from tea would probably be as fashionable as it now is to take it. Human nature abhors that, which either its own or a foreign government wants to force on it by means of a piece of written parchment, called a commercial treaty.

We did not approve his Lordship's sanctioning the Six Acts, as they have been called, whereby the liberty of the subject has been contracted, and the public press *jettered*. Public meetings, held for the purpose of discussing the acts of the ministry, are deserving the encouragement of any government, however despotic; much more deserving the encouragement of a free government like that of England. Public meetings give men an excellent opportunity of exhausting their political hostility. Their spleen and discontent evaporate at such meetings; whereas, when restrained, they might be secretly plotting against the constitution. For these reasons we have always thought the acts of Parliament, made to suppress public meetings, unworthy a great statesman. All Governments would find it best to tolerate public meetings. It is better for people to talk out their envy and their hatred of a ministry, than it is that hatred and envy be smothered for a time, and then burst forth into a violent explosion at the first opportunity. Talkative subjects are much safer subjects than silent ones.

The *union* of the British and Irish Parliaments was his first and greatest political achievement. Whatever degree of moral guilt may attach to his character, from the means which he employed in accomplishing that purpose, the praise of activity, energy, perseverance, and even of *physical* courage, must unreservedly accompany the successful result of his exertions. To assert, indeed, that Lord Castlereagh, in pur-

chasing the consent of the Irish Parliament to its own dissolution, had corrupted the purity of the Legislature of Ireland, would be to assume the existence of this attribute in the corrupt assemblies which were dignified by that name; but degraded as those assemblies were, they had yet so far obeyed the impulse of the public voice, as to give a momentary freedom to their country, and the history of the Parliament even of England, in the days which witnessed the murders of the *Russells*, and the *Sydneys*, and the rapid expulsion of the *Stuarts*, ought to guard nations against the possibility of despairing for their eventual prosperity. It cannot be denied that the union must contribute to the general force of the empire, by removing many obvious causes of occasional diversities between countries merely feederal; but it is equally certain, that from the moment in which the Volunteers first sprang into life, until the hour of the dissolution of the independent Parliament of Ireland, this country had bounded forward in the course of improvement, with a pace more rapid than had ever been experienced of any other nation or people in the world; and that since the union, she has fallen back into the old crooked path of party government, of prejudices and party influences, of county jobs, and Castle patronage. The proud hopes, and honest ambition of Ireland, were all blighted by the Union; and for those bright prospects of national improvement, which might have been fairly justified by a view of the past, Ireland has now to contemplate the comforts of *provincial protection*---a pauper population, with the alms of charity for their support---and an *Insurrection Act* for their suppression or security. Lord Castlereagh placed himself, for the moment, in the seat of empire, and he sacrificed the peculiar interests of his own country to promote what he believed to be the general prosperity.

On the subject of the horrid floggings, half hangings, and torturings said to be practised in the deplorable season of 1798, it is much more difficult to defend, or even apologise for his conduct. "When, says the first of Irish orators, "torture was the daily and ordinary system of the executive Government, it was denied with a profligacy and effrontery equal to the barbarity with which it was exhibited in Dublin; and if the facts, that shall appear to-day, should be stated on the other side of the water, I make no doubt but near one hundred *worthy* persons would be ready to deny their existence, upon their honour, or, if necessary, upon their oaths."---*Curran's Speeches*, p. 357. Doubtless many of the outrages of this period were *unauthorised*, and may be traced to the fanatics of a loyal faction, who gave a loose to such excesses, from the dreadful but not

unnatural thirst of vengeance, for the appalling outrages perpetrated by the rebels in the South of Ireland; yet this, in our opinion, forms a very inadequate defence of the then government, which, if it did not participate in, could connive at the establishment of such a horrid system of retaliation.

Having adverted to the most important measures of the administration of the Marquess, we shall now speak of him in his capacity of a parliamentary speaker.---With few qualities of an orator, he was an effective, and sometimes even might be called a shining debater.---The engaging nobleness of his person and manners gave weight in him to what would have dropped unnoticed from another: his imperturbable *sang froid* and fine tact, whilst they prevented his committing himself, gave him frequent advantages over the coarser perceptions and less-governed temper of an adversary. He sometimes, too, obtained a triumph in pure dialectics, by discovering a fallacy or a weakness in the matter of his opponent's speech; or by an unexpected and hard retort. But his general manner was *bad*. From an early and unhappy affectation of Mr. PITT's amplified and involved, but still clear and powerful, declamation, he adopted, or rather contracted a habit of obscuring his meaning in a cloud of words---parenthesis within parenthesis---imperfect and incongruous metaphors, and a loose and inappropriate, and even whimsically-forced use of the vocabulary of the English language. He seldom turned a period---but either abandoned it unfinished, or closed it with something wholly alien to its beginning. Another defective peculiarity in him was, that his oratory was utterly *illiterate*. He appeared as if he had never read any thing in print, except the papers printed for the public service, or the use of the House. He sometimes developed an important proposition for the consideration of the House in a comprehensive and even luminous manner, in spite of the habitual looseness of his style. His speech on proposing to open the trade to India was much praised at the time, for the soundness of its general commercial principles, and its detail of facts. But still, vagueness and obscurity formed the prevailing character of his speeches. Sometimes, perhaps, he was designedly obscure, as if he thought with the French epigram, that "the use of language was to conceal our thoughts." Eulogy was his most successful walk in public speaking. Some of his speeches, on moving thanks to our commanders and troops during the late war, were in an elegant taste, and marked by a happy choice of topics. In moving thanks after one of the British victories, he stated the following trait: "After the battle, some English and French soldiers, who happened to seek the same rivulet to slake their

thirst, upon meeting on opposite banks, shook hands across the stream, in mutual congratulation of their valour." His mention of this incident strongly affected the sensibility of the House. His temperament was peculiar—at once impassive and intrepid—nothing provoked, nothing daunted him. He had that steady disregard of personal danger, which is the spring of enterprize, and, without which, a public man's tenure of public character is uncertain indeed.

In private life, the Marquess is said to have been estimable and amiable. His intercourse, by letters, with some of his early private friends, in Ireland, was kind and engaging, and without the slightest change of manner from his elevation in this country. The following tribute to his domestic virtues, in a private letter from North Cray, the spot where he resided, is, perhaps, too flattering.

"Whatever," observes the writer, "may have been the opinion of the world as to his political character, however applauded by friends, or defamed by enemies, in the sweet retreat of private life—in the bosom of his family—in retirement, the Marquess of Londonderry was the most amiable and beloved of men. He was the benefactor of the poor, the consoler of the afflicted, and the distributor of charities unbounded. To his domestics he was the kindest master. 'Alas, Sir,' was the observation of each of them this evening, we have lost the best friend we ever had; we were too happy in his service.' To the village of Foot's Cray he was a liberal contributor in every improvement. The few inhabitants it contains look upon his death as the greatest calamity that could befall them, and they are loud in the expression of their sorrows. We have seldom witnessed a more unaffected display of grief than was presented on all the roads in the neighbourhood of this place. The people kept up hope to the last—they dreaded that the reports would be confirmed—and when the fatal truth could no longer be concealed, heart-felt sorrow and lamentation pervaded them all. It was impossible to find a more amiable object of private life than the Marquess exhibited at this place; hither he fled from political contests. Harassed in the world by enemies to his measures, he seemed determined at his home to make every one around him a friend, and well and fully has he succeeded.

"In every act of kindness, in every step of bounty or of charity, the Marchioness of Londonderry was his constant companion; and now, prayers for her, and invocations of blessings on her head, accompany all the expressions of sorrow from the people for his Lordship's loss."

To the above we shall add the testimony of a London

morning paper, which has for years been one of the most persevering opponents of the political measures of his administration. The praise of a friend may be suspected of partiality; that of an enemy, and a bitter one, may be equally suspected---but not of saying too much.---“As a member of society, apart from office, we bear a willing tribute to those valuable qualities by which his Lordship acquired and preserved the affections of his numerous friends. We pass by the mere accomplishments and elegancies which distinguished him, since to dwell upon them would be to depreciate his more solid virtues. Lord Londonderry was a man of unassuming manners, of simple tastes, and, so far as regards private life, of kind and generous dispositions. Towards the poor, he was beneficent; in his family, mild, considerate, and forbearing. He was firm to the connexions and associates of his earlier days, not only those of choice, but of accident, when not unworthy; and to promote them, and to advance their interests, his efforts were sincere and indefatigable. In power, he forgot no service rendered to him while he was in a private station, nor broke any promise, expressed or implied, nor abandoned any friend who claimed and merited his assistance. These are good sound qualities of a moral agent, and, in the estimate of general worth, they have a high redeeming power.”

This is very laudatory, and coming from a journal (*The Times*) which, when it suited the interests of the paper, made the personal history and public measures of the same nobleman a constant theme of ridicule and animadversion, requires observation. To all that is said on the private character of the Marquess, we do not object; unhappily, however, the private virtues of public men are of little more importance than the clothes they wear. Few men were more amiable in private life than Perceval; yet, he was the most cold-blooded and mischievous of politicians. The sum of the Marquess of Londonderry's excellences may be briefly stated; he was personally brave, and of gentlemanly demeanour; and even his enemies must deplore the unhappy catastrophe of this highly-gifted Nobleman.

The best account of this lamentable event will be collected from the Coroner's Inquest, which we shall insert entire; afterwards subjoining such facts and information, as are likely to illustrate the death or character of the unfortunate Nobleman.

INQUEST

ON THE

LATE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY.

ON Tuesday, the 13th of August, 1822, an Inquest was held on the remains of the late Marquess, in the mansion of the noble deceased, at North Cray, before Mr. Carttar, of Debtford, Coroner for the county of Kent, and a jury of respectable housekeepers, residing in the neighbourhood.

At half past two o'clock the jury, and a number of other persons, among whom were the whole of the domestics of the establishment, and the labourers on the estate, assembled in the long dining-room, and a melancholy assemblage it was! The horrible nature of the subject about to be submitted to their consideration, the close vicinity of the chamber of death, and the almost breathless silence of the assembly, interrupted only by an occasional whisper, or the audible weepings of some among the household servants, gave a chilling solemnity to the scene, which we shall not easily forget.—There was not the slightest impediment thrown in the way of any person wishing to enter that passage of the house leading to the room in which the inquest was held; on the contrary, the Coroner repeatedly asked whether there was any other person in waiting about the premises who wished to be present—observing, that the inquiry ought to be as public as possible.—Among the persons at the upper end of the table we observed Mr. Planta and Mr. F. Stewart, son of Lord Stewart, by his first lady: we understand that Viscount Sidmouth and Lord George Seymour were in an adjoining room.

About three o'clock the jury having been sworn, the Coroner addressed them in nearly the following terms:—Upon no former occasion, in the performance of his duty, had his feelings been so excited as by the present unfortunate event. He was, indeed, so much affected, that they must perceive he could hardly express himself as he wished. Upon this account, he trusted they would excuse any trifling errors which he might commit in the exercise of his duty. The gentlemen of the jury were summoned and sworn to enquire into the cause of the death of a nobleman, who stood, perhaps, as high in the public estimation as any man in the country. That his Lordship had met his death under particular circumstances, they, doubtless, must have learned. But it was his duty to inform them that they must remove from their minds all impressions which should not be borne out by the evidence. The gentlemen whom he addressed, being neighbours of the deceased, were better able to form a just estimate of his character than he was. As a public man, it was impossible for him to weigh his character in any scales that he could hold. In private life, he believed the world would admit that a more amiable man could not be found. Whether the important duties of the great office which he held pressed upon his mind, and conduced to the melancholy event which they had assembled to investigate, was a circum-

stance which, in all probability, never could be discovered. He understood that his Lordship had, for some time past, been so unwell, as to require the assistance of a medical attendant. This gentleman would be examined on the inquest, and would, doubtless, be competent to describe the disease and affliction under which his Lordship laboured. That the dreadful blow which deprived the noble Lord of life was inflicted by his own hand, he believed the jury, when they came to hear the evidence, could not doubt. He understood it would be proved that no person in the house, except his Lordship, could have committed the act. When the jury should examine the situation of the body, and hear the evidence that would be submitted to them, he was convinced that they would be perfectly unanimous in that part of their verdict which went to declare the manner in which the deceased met his death. He felt that it was a matter of delicacy to allude to the other part of the verdict, and he would not presume to anticipate what it might be; but he trusted the result would be that which all good men desired. If the facts which he had heard were proved in evidence, he thought no man could doubt that, at the time he committed the rash act, his Lordship was labouring under a mental delusion. If, however, it should unfortunately appear that there was not sufficient evidence to prove what were generally considered the indications of a disordered mind, he trusted that the jury would pay some attention to his (the Coroner's) humble opinion, which was, that no man could be in his proper senses at the moment he committed so rash an act as self-murder. His opinion was in consonance with every moral sentiment, and of the information which the wisest of men had given to the world. The Bible declared that a man clung to nothing so strongly as his own life. He therefore viewed it as an axiom, and an abstract principle, that a man must necessarily be out of his mind at the moment of destroying himself. The jury, of course, would not adopt his opinion upon this point, unless it were in unison with their own. He would not longer occupy the time and attention of the jury, than to express his pleasure at seeing so respectable a body of gentlemen, and to add a hope that they would acquit themselves of their important duty to the satisfaction of the public, as well as of their own consciences. He must apologise for saying a few words more. The body was lying up stairs; and in the room adjoining to that in which it lay, the Marchioness at present was, and from thence it had been found impossible to remove her. To picture to the imagination any thing like the state of that noble lady's mind, was altogether impossible. The partition which divided the room in which the body lay from that which the Marchioness at present occupied was so thin, that the least noise being made in the former could not fail to be heard in the latter. The forms of law, however, required that the jury should view the body, and judge, from the external marks which it might exhibit, of the causes which had produced death: he, therefore, had only to request that the gentlemen would be as silent as possible. He was almost afraid that the creaking of their shoes might be the means of exciting ideas which would wound the feelings of the unhappy Marchioness. He was sure, under these circumstances, the jury would do every thing in their power to prevent the least noise, and he might observe that it would be de-

desirable to abstain from talking in the room where the body lay, because any conversation must certainly be heard through the almost, he might say, paper partition. After the jury had satisfied themselves by viewing the body, they would return to execute the remaining part of their duty.

During this address of the Coroner, the domestics of the unfortunate Marquess who were in the room, for the most part, shed tears; indeed, the love which the servants of his Lordship bore towards him was, we will not say surprising, (for kind and honorable treatment from a gentleman to those persons who are dependant upon him, must ever procure such a result), but highly creditable both to him and the individuals who composed his household.

Before the jury left the room, for the purpose of seeing the body, one of them suggested that his colleagues, as well as himself, should take off their shoes, in order to prevent, as far as possible, any noise that might be occasioned by them in walking. The hint was immediately acted upon, and the jury proceeded to the dressing-room of his Lordship, where the body of the late Marquess, clothed in a morning gown, still lay on the floor, exactly in the posture it had assumed in the moment of death. It lay a little turned on the right side, with the feet towards the window; and the floor, for a considerable distance around the head and shoulders, was soaked in blood. It was a miserable spectacle.

The Coroner and Jury having returned to the dining-room, Mrs. ANNE ROBINSON, lady's maid to the Marchioness of Londonderry, was called, and examined on oath. She was much agitated, and was accommodated with a chair whilst giving her evidence. She deposed, that the body the jury had just seen was that of her master, the late Marquess of Londonderry. He had been ill during the last fortnight, particularly since Monday last. On Sunday night last he rang his bed-room bell, and when she answered it, he asked her why Lady Londonderry did not come to see him; she replied, that her lady had been with him all the day, as in fact she had, and was at that moment in the adjoining room. He rang a second time, and enquired if Doctor Bankhead had been to see him; and she replied that he had, on the preceding night. The Marquess then asked, "Did I talk any nonsense to Doctor Bankhead?" to which witness replied, that she did not know, as she did not stay in the room during their conversation. At seven o'clock on Monday morning (continued the witness) he again rang his bed-room bell, and when I went into the chamber, he abruptly asked me what I wanted. The Marquess and Marchioness were then both in bed, and I replied, that I came because the bell rang. The Marchioness said it was breakfast that was wanted. I took it up, and the Marquess sat up in the bed.—He found fault with it, and said, "it was not a breakfast fit for him." He said there was no butter there: the butter, however, was on the tray, as usual, and I pointed it out to him. The manner in which he spoke struck me as being uncommon; it was in a sharp tone, which was unusual with him. I left the room after this. The bell rang again in about half an hour; that was about half past seven. My lady was in the room at this time, and I cannot tell who rang the bell. The Mar-

guess asked when Dr. Bankhead would come to see him. I replied that he had slept in the house that night. He said he wished to see him. I went to the Doctor, and told him my Lord wished to see him. He said he was ready to attend him. I then told my Lord so, and he replied, "Not yet." My Lady having put on her dressing-gown, retired to her own dressing-room, and shut the door after her. At this moment my Lord also got out of bed, and turned to the right into his own dressing-room.—[Several questions were here put to the witness, to ascertain the precise situation of the rooms. From the answers which she returned, it appeared that the common sleeping-room opened into a passage, on either side of which was a dressing-room, Lady Londonderry's on the left, his Lordship's on the right. At the extremity of the passage was another door, behind which Dr. Bankhead was waiting.]—I had just opened the door of my lady's dressing-room, into which she had entered, when my Lord rushed past me into his own room. I opened the outside door, and told the circumstance to Dr. Bankhead, who immediately followed my Lord into his dressing-room. I cannot tell what passed there, but I heard my Lord open his window before the doctor entered his room. Immediately when the doctor entered the room, he (the Doctor) exclaimed, "Oh, my Lord!" or "Oh, my God!" I cannot recollect which. I heard no reply to this from my Lord. I instantly rushed into the room, and saw the Doctor with my Lord in his arms.—[See the *Frontispiece*.]—I remained in the room till I saw the doctor lay him with his face upon the floor. I saw the blood running from him while Dr. Bankhead held him. I saw a knife. I heard my Lord say nothing. I was certainly much alarmed. The knife was in his right hand.—[A pen-knife, with an ivory handle, and upon which there was no appearance of blood, was here shewn to the witness.]—I believe that to be the pen-knife which I saw in my Lord's hand. After staying a few minutes in my Lord's dressing-room, I followed Doctor Bankhead to my Lady. I had previously raised an alarm, and it was now general throughout the house. To the best of my belief, my Lord did not live four minutes after I saw him. I did not perceive any wound nor any blood while he was in his bed-room. No person was with him in the interval between his leaving his dressing-room and his death but Dr. Bankhead. His state of mind appeared to be very incorrect for the last three or four days of his life. He appeared to be very wild in every thing he said or did. He wanted from me a box which he said Lord Clanwilliam had given to me. His Lordship, however, had never given me any. He also asked me for his keys, when he had them about him. During the last fortnight he was accustomed to say that every body had conspired against him. He was very severe in his manner of speaking, which I never noticed before, he being in general mild and kind. When he saw two people speaking together, he always said, "There is a conspiracy laid against me." A great many circumstances induce me to believe that he was out of his mind a fortnight before his death. He scolded my Lady on Sunday afternoon, because, as he said, she had not been near him all day, she had entirely forsaken him. Her Ladyship, however, had been sitting with him all the morning. The witness, in conclusion, repeated her belief that his Lordship

had been in a state of mental delusion for some weeks previous to his death.

The second witness examined was CHARLES BANKHEAD, M. D. of Lower Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.—“ On last Friday afternoon, at five o'clock, I received a note from Lady Londonderry, desiring me to come as soon as I could to see the Marquess of Londonderry, at his house in St. James's Square. Her note stated that she was very anxious about his Lordship, as she thought he was very ill and very nervous; that they were to leave town for North Cray at seven o'clock in the evening, and that she hoped I would come before that hour. I arrived in St. James's Square at six o'clock, and found my Lord and Lady alone in the drawing-room. Upon feeling his pulse, I conceived him to be exceedingly ill. He complained of a severe head-ache, and a confusion of recollection. He looked pale, and was very much distressed in his manner. I told him that I thought it was necessary he should be cupped, and that I would stay and dine with his lady and himself till the cupper came. The cupper soon arrived, and took seven ounces of blood from the nape of his Lordship's neck. After the operation was performed, he stated that he was very much relieved, and I advised him to lay himself quietly down on the sofa for half an hour; and, as he had scarcely eaten the whole day, to take a cup of tea before he got into the carriage to return to North Cray. He followed my advice, and laid himself down on the couch, where he remained very tranquil. After this, he drank two cups of tea. I waited until I saw my Lady and himself get into the carriage in order to return to North Cray. Before his departure, his Lordship said, that as I must be sure he was very ill, he expected that I would come to North Cray, and stay all Saturday night, and, if possible, all Sunday. I sent with him some opening medicines, which he was to take early on Saturday, in order that I might know the effect they produced on my arrival. I know that he took these powders on Saturday. I arrived at North Cray about seven o'clock on Saturday afternoon. I understood that his Lordship had not been out of bed all day, and I immediately proceeded to his bed-room. On entering the room, I observed that his manner of looking at me expressed suspicion and alarm. He said, it was very odd that I should come to his bed-room first, before going into the dining-room below. I answered, that I had dined in town, and knowing that the family were at dinner down stairs, I had come to visit him.— Upon this, he made a reply which surprised me exceedingly; it was to this effect—that I seemed particularly grave in my manner, and that something must have happened amiss. He then asked me abruptly whether I had any thing unpleasant to tell him? I answered “ No; that I was surprised at his question, and the manner in which it was proposed.” He then said, “ the truth was, that he had reason to be suspicious in some degree, but that he hoped that I would be the last person who would engage in any thing that would be injurious to him.” His manner of saying this was so unusual and so disturbed, as to satisfy me that he was, at the moment, labouring under mental delusion. I entreated him to be very tranquil, and prescribed for him some more cooling and aperient medicines, confined him to barley water, and al-

lowed him slops only. I remained with him during Saturday night, and till one o'clock on Sunday morning. Though his fever was not very high during any part of this time, yet the incoherence of his speech and the uncomfortableness of his manner continued unaltered. During Sunday I visited him frequently, and continued with him in the evening till half past twelve o'clock. I advised him to be as tranquil as possible, and told him I would endeavour to persuade my Lady to come to bed. I slept in a room very near that of his Lordship. On Monday morning, about seven o'clock, Mrs. Robinson, my Lady Londonderry's maid, came to my room-door, and asked me if I was dressed, telling me, my Lord wished to see me by and by. I answered, that I was ready to come that moment; but Mrs. Robinson said she did not wish me to come then, because her Ladyship had not left the bed-room. In about half an hour she returned, and said that his Lordship would be glad to see me immediately, as her Ladyship was putting on her gown, in order to go into her own dressing-room. On walking from my own room to Lord Londonderry's bed-room, I observed that the door of the latter was open, and could perceive that his Lordship was not in it. In an instant Mrs. Robinson said to me, "His Lordship has gone into his dressing-room." I stepped into his dressing-room, and saw him standing with his front towards the window, which was opposite to the door at which I entered. His face was directed towards the ceiling. Without turning his head, on the instant he heard my step, he exclaimed, "Bankhead, let me fall on your arm—'tis all over!" As quickly as possible I ran to him, thinking he was fainting, and going to fall. I caught him in my arms as he was falling, and perceived that he had a knife in his right hand, very firmly clinched, and all over bloody. I did not see him use it; he must have used it before I came into the room.

Coroner.—"Are the jury to understand that it had been used previously to your going into the room?"

Doctor Bankhead.—"I suppose it had been. My notice was first attracted by its being bloody, and in the next moment a torrent of blood gushed from his neck, like water from a watering-pot, and life was extinct in the twinkling of an eye. Not less than two quarts of blood issued from the wound in the space of one minute. I am quite satisfied that a minute did not elapse from the time of my entering the room before he was quite dead, and without having uttered another word than those I have already mentioned."

Coroner.—"Are you certain no other person inflicted the wound?"

Doctor B.—"I am quite positive."

Witness, in continuation, said, the wound inflicted was about one inch in length, and two inches deep; that he had known him for thirty years, and he had no hesitation in saying, that at the time of his committing this dreadful act, he was in a state of complete insanity. There had been a great decline in his general habit of health for some time, but he (Dr. B.) was not aware of any mental delusion till within the last four days.

The examination of Dr. Bankhead was here interrupted by remarks from some of the jury, expressive of their opinion that sufficient evidence

had been produced. A short consultation took place between them in a low tone of voice, which ended by the Coroner ordering that strangers should withdraw, which was immediately complied with.

After a delay of half an hour, we were again summoned to the room where the jury were assembled.

The Coroner then rose, and said—"Gentlemen, attend to your verdict." He then read the verdict which the jury had delivered in, and which was worded in the usual manner. It expressed that they found the Marquess of Londonderry had laboured under a grievous delusion of mind, on Monday, the 12th day of August, and for some days preceding. It then went on to say, that, on Monday, the 12th, he had, with a pen-knife, held in his right hand, inflicted a wound on the left side of the neck, on the carotid artery, and made a cut, one inch in length and two in depth, which was the immediate cause of his Lordship's death. It also stated the belief of the jury, that he did not come by his death by the hand of any other person or persons. When the Coroner had read this verdict, and the jury had repeated their assent to it, the greater part of the strangers present left the apartment. The Coroner requested the gentlemen of the jury to remain, and, with great propriety, ordered that any persons in waiting at the outer apartments should be called in.—The Coroner then addressed the jury nearly in the following words:—"Gentlemen of the Jury, I have detained you a few moments longer than perhaps you conceived it necessary that I should do, after the evidence which you have already heard, and upon hearing which your minds were so fully satisfied, that you expressed your readiness to come to a decision. I have detained you for the purpose of submitting to your consideration a document, which appears to me of a most important nature. Gentlemen, I have no doubt but that you have given a verdict which will be satisfactory to your country as well as to your own consciences; but, in such cases as the present, we should not omit any thing that can strengthen the body of evidence, or which can remove even the shadow of suspicion. If the inquiry had been pursued, or if further evidence had been deemed necessary by you, I understand that numerous witnesses were in attendance, to prove that the dreadful malady of which this unfortunate Nobleman had been the victim, and which you have agreed on was the cause of his death, had operated on his mind for some days previous. It is possible that such a statement may excite some surprise, as his Lordship was present before the King in Council on Friday last. Some doubt might arise in the public mind as to the existence of the malady at that time, or previous to it. I have it in my power to satisfy all objections on that point; and to give you, Gentlemen, a proof of the correctness of your verdict, I now hold in my hand a letter, written by one of the first personages in the country (the Duke of Wellington) to the late Nobleman's medical adviser, and which he was convinced would be enough to remove the doubts of even the most suspicious."

The Coroner then read the following letter from his Grace:

"Apsley House, August 9.

"Dear Sir, I called upon you with the intention of talking to you on

the subject of the health of Lord Londonderry, and to request of you that you will call on him. I told his Lordship that he was unwell, and particularly requested him to send for you; but, lest he should not, I sincerely hope that you will contrive, by some pretence, to go down to his Lordship. I have no doubt he is very unwell. He appears to me to have been exceedingly harassed, much fatigued, and over-worked during the late session of Parliament; and I have no doubt he labours under mental delirium; at least this is my impression. I beg you'll never mention to any one what I have told you respecting his Lordship.

" I am, &c.

" WELLINGTON.

" To Charles Bankhead, M. D. &c."

The Coroner then said that this letter was not offered as evidence, but there was no doubt of its authenticity. He said that the melancholy symptoms of his Lordship's derangement were not only remarked by the Duke of Wellington, but that they had attracted the notice of the most important personage in the State. We understood him to imply, that his Majesty in council had noticed the alteration in the manner of his Lordship, and to have communicated his suspicion of the unhappy cause.

When the Coroner had concluded, the gentlemen of the jury withdrew, and the strangers who had attended left the apartment.

After the Coroner and the jury had retired, the corpse (which had remained untouched on the floor of the dressing-room, exactly as it had fallen from the arms of Dr. Bankhead) was removed by the Undertaker and his assistants, and, having been deposited in a shell, it was placed on trestles, in the study, on the ground floor; and was afterwards conveyed to the deceased Nobleman's town-house, in St. James's Square.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

THE following circumstance, which was collected in the village of North Cray, ought to be mentioned as an indication of the previous state of his Lordship's mind. On Saturday the noble Marquess was heard to exclaim to one of his attendants, " Business and I must part---the perplexities of office are too much for me---I cannot endure them much longer." It is said that his Lordship made use of similar language about a year ago, when his health appeared to be in the same state as it was on the present occasion. It has been reported that his Lordship received a fall from his horse during the last week, but this, on inquiry, we believe to be unfounded. His Lordship refused to have his bed made on Sunday night, expressing an apprehension of taking cold.

The Marquess was observed to be very low spirited on Friday and Saturday, and would often say that he was surrounded

by spies, and inquire who was in the house, as he was sure there were people watching him; and on being informed that his private secretary was down stairs, he said there were other people as well. On Sunday he took a walk; when he came home he was very incoherent in his conversation. His attendants removed every means of self-destruction out of his reach. His pistols were taken away, and it was supposed that nothing was left in his reach of a destructive nature. He was expected to go to Vienna, to the Congress, the latter end of the ensuing week, which preyed on his mind very much. He observed to a gentleman at the House of Commons, on Tuesday, that the very harassing session they had just finished, would be the death of him.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

On Friday, the Marquess was in London to take leave of his Majesty, and, on his return home, complained of illness. Some of the persons in his establishment, that day, remarked that his looks seemed to betray great agitation of mind. Dr. Bankhead, who had been for many years his Lordship's physician, was immediately sent for, and continued in attendance to the last. On Saturday, his illness seemed to encrease, accompanied with much fever. On Sunday, a more favourable turn took place, and, as we have heard, on Sunday night he slept well, and appeared early next morning considerably better. At seven o'clock he was so much recovered, that he called for breakfast, of which he partook with appetite, and apparent satisfaction. At eight o'clock, when the Marchioness left the apartment for a moment, the act of destruction took place. It was instantly discovered, and one of his footmen supported him until Dr. Bankhead was called. After some struggles of expiring nature, a glimpse of reason appeared to return. He pressed Dr. Bankhead's hand, and said, "Doctor, I die a happy man." We give this merely as one of the statements in circulation, but, as appears from Dr. Bankhead's evidence before the Coroner, it cannot be the fact.

Dr. Bankhead, with another gentleman, whose name we could not learn, immediately proceeded to London, from whence the former returned about seven in the evening. It is impossible to describe the anguish of the Marchioness. She rushed to the body of her dear Lord---clung to it in spite of all resistance, and it was not for some time, and without much difficulty, that she could be rescued from the painful scene.

She continued almost in a state of delirium during the day--- her heart was with her Lord, and she was inaccessible to all consolations of the friends that surrounded her. The sister of the Marchioness, Lady Suffield, happened to be at North Cray, and her services, at this moment of affliction, were invaluable.

Miss Fitzroy and Miss Napier had also been for a short time domesticated there; so that all the valuable aid of female attentions were fortunately at hand. Lady Mount Edgcumbe arrived at five o'clock.

Mr. Planta, the private secretary to the Marquess, was on his way from Hastings to London, and having heard at Bromley of the melancholy event, he came instantly across the country, and arrived at the house at twelve. This gentleman's presence so unlooked for, yet desirable, was considered of great value in the delicate circumstances of the moment. Lord Clanwilliam was busied during the day, in consultation with Mr. Planta, and in making the necessary arrangements: Mr. Grome, the confidential solicitor of the Marquess, was sent for without delay, and he reached North Cray at six o'clock. He then remained, for some time, in consultation with Lord Clanwilliam and Mr. Planta; and with others, whose names we could not learn. Until Mr. Grome's arrival, nothing definitive could be arranged.

We understand that the Marquess had been, for a long time, suffering under the oppression of a plethoric habit, and determination of blood to the head. On Friday, these symptoms increased, and became oppressive. With a view to relief, we learn, that his medical adviser ordered him to be bled, and on Saturday to be cupped. The latter appeared to give considerable ease, and it was hoped that a restoration of health would ensue.

His household at North Cray remarked that he had, for the last fortnight, been very low spirited, and was often seen in the garden moping about alone. They all speak of his affable and pleasant manner towards them in the strongest terms of approbation. North Cray was a complete paradise. He was never known to refuse seeing any person at his office; and, if he had a press of business at any time, he would request them to call again, or, if very urgent, he would see them instanter. At the last cabinet dinner he was very abstracted, which was observed by the company generally: in many instances, questions were put to him twice before he answered them; and then so cool and deliberate, it was inferred and remarked that all was not right. On Friday he was seen walking up and down Pall-Mall, in a very odd manner, for an hour previous to

his going to his Majesty. He was with the King for three hours; when he departed, his Majesty sent for Lord Liverpool, to whom he remarked, that a great difference had taken place in the mind of "my Lord Londonderry," and he said that he thought his intellects were impaired.

The noble Lord's friends had with pain observed, for some time past, an alarming alteration in his health; they perceived that the business, and squabbles, and contests of the House, created great restlessness of demeanour and irritation; but none of them had imagined that his mind was affected by the exhaustion, resulting from such severe parliamentary labours, saying nothing of the irritation occasioned by being compelled to alter the plans of the parliamentary campaign after the Easter recess. The mortification resulting from feeling it politic thus to change the ministerial system of tactics, even after the noble Lord had himself unfolded the schemes and intentions of Government, may be imagined; but the real effect was only perceived by those who had opportunities of most intimately observing his Lordship's conduct, and of hearing his confidential conversations. They declare that they never before remarked his Lordship's command of temper to be overcome;---that they never before discovered him to evince uneasiness at any untoward circumstances that might have occurred in the House, in the Cabinet, or in public life. But even in the House this touchiness displayed itself, in a very recent instance, to the surprise of many of the noble Lord's surrounding friends. It was particularly remarked that night; and it was the general subject of conversation, next day, at the subscription-houses, and in the several political circles at the west end of the town. On the debate on the "Superannuation Bill," Mr. Canning strongly opposed it, after declaring that it had been postponed *twenty-seven* times; and, in his opposition, he "*imagined*" the case of "a youth" who, while at the university, had left fellowships, studentships, &c. all for a place under Government, the reward for which was to be destroyed by this bill. The noble Lord, in reply, was evidently hurt at such opposition, and that it should come from such a quarter; and he retorted upon the right honorable Gentleman, that the "*imaginary*" case was nothing of the kind;---that it was a "*real case*," but one that did not affect the principle of the bill. The political conversations of the next day said, that the imaginary case applied to an instance in the *Chinnery* family! The distinct contradiction, however, thus given to Mr. Canning, was looked upon as a very peculiar circumstance, judging of Lord Londonderry from the tact and temper that he had always shown on former occasions.

After the last interview which the Marquess of Londonderry had with his Majesty, the Duke of Wellington followed his Majesty into his cabinet, when the King is reported to have said to him, "Wellington, what's the matter with Londonderry? Either he is mad, or I am." It was after this that the Duke of Wellington wrote to Dr. Bankhead the letter to which the coroner alluded. On the same day the Marquess went into the British Coffee-house, in Cockspur-street, and insisted on it that Sir Edmund Nagle was there. It was with great difficulty that the waiters could persuade him that he was mistaken; and it was some time before he would leave the hotel, such a strong impression possessed him that Sir Edmund was in the coffee-house concealed. On leaving the hotel, the Marquess went into a china-shop in the neighbourhood.

CHARACTERISTIC ANECDOTES.

THE justice which is so universally and unequivocally done to the *private* qualities of Lord Londonderry has been almost unexampled in the instance of a person, respecting whom public or political feeling must have been so strongly contrasted; and we are disposed to think, that this appreciation of him in the relations of social life, will be raised still higher as his character becomes better known. He was very tenacious of his early friendships. A history of the Union, and the events which immediately preceded it---in fact of his own administration in Ireland---was a project which he had very much at heart, and was proposed to some gentlemen of reputation, as men of letters, in Ireland. One of these, a particular friend of his Lordship, declined the undertaking, because he could not conscientiously execute it in the sense of the Minister, and yet their friendship continued uninterrupted and unchilled. Some private letters of his Lordship on the subject were spoken of as written with great elegance, ease, and simplicity. It was understood that he had collected and arranged documents, and other materials, on the abovementioned subject. If they exist, however biassed, they must still be most valuable. His conversation is said to have had a pleasing liveliness---without sparkling.

Bon Mot.---We have heard but one *bon mot* of his, and, curiously enough, it was in French. Speaking of the noted Fouché, somebody said of him, "*C'est une bête*; [He is a *beast*] "*Oui*," [Yes,] replied his Lordship, "*mais c'est une*

bete feroce," [but a ferocious beast.] He spoke French without fluency, but correctly, with a slow and measured enunciation. His appearance in public, when in Paris, in 1815, was quite unostentatious and simple. In the morning, and sometimes even in the evening, he was seen walking in the crowd with his Lady, on the terrace, or in one of the *allees* of the Thuilleries. The French were doubly astounded at the unostentatious simplicity of his appearance, and at the unfashionable singularity of such a promenade *tête-à-tête* with *his wife*."

HABITS OF BUSINESS.

With respect to the Marquess of Londonderry's habits of business in his own peculiar department, they were unremitting, but apparently not laborious, because they were not bustling. When in town, he generally went to the Foreign Office about eleven, or half past eleven, in the forenoon, and remained till one or two, or occasionally later, as circumstances might require.

The manner in which the Marquess's private affairs were conducted, particularly when they had any reference to the public, is equally creditable to him. All the small expenses of his household were regularly settled, and paid weekly, while those of greater consequence, though allowed to run for some time longer, were all discharged at stated periods, and with the utmost satisfaction. The Marquess of Londonderry was, certainly, in all personal pecuniary transactions, most generous and high-minded. Before his father's death, his private fortune was necessarily slender, the patrimonial estate being comparatively small, and his father's family numerous. But this was no bar to his Lordship's liberality. At the conclusion of the war, his brother, now elevated to the Marquesate, was, among several other distinguished officers, raised to the peerage, by the title of Lord Stewart; a pension of £2000 per annum being allowed to those creations and their successors for the two next generations.---Lord Castlereagh (as he then was) would not permit his brother to accept any part of the pension, but in lieu of it, settled £3000 a-year upon him, out of his own private income!

HIS ENEMIES.

The Marquess was *unfortunate* in his enemies. They were to be feared either for talents, character, or zeal, and sometimes for altogether. An incessant offensive war was kept up against him in the Irish House of Commons. Mr. Grattan and the living Mr. Plunkett attacked him repeatedly. There is a published speech of the latter, delivered in the Irish Parliament upon the question of the Union, in which his Lordship is made the subject of a most galling philippic. His Lordship was persecuted with unrelenting spirit in the satires and eloquence of Mr. Moore. They were the antipodes in politics. The poet entertained an early prejudice against his Lordship; and the tone and consistency of his enmity showed how deeply it was rooted. Some will doubt if the following passage, published by Mr. Moore, in the year 1818, in one of his admirable *jeux d'esprit*, is more dishonorable to the subject than the author. The poet addresses England in a strain of invective, and proceeds—

“ If thus to hear thee branded be a bliss
 That Vengeance loves, there's yet more sweet than this,
 That 'twas an Irish head, an Irish heart,
 Made thee the fall'n and tarnish'd thing thou art :
 That as the Centaur gave th' infected vest,
 In which he died, to rack his conqueror's breast,
 We sent thee C——gh :—as heaps of dead
 Have slain their slayers by the pest they spread,
 So hath our land breath'd out, thy fame to dim,
 Thy strength to waste, and rot thee. soul and limb—
 Her worst infections all condensed in him.”

How far his Lordship was connected with the atrocities said to have been committed in Ireland before the Union, we are not disposed to discuss. Much must be allowed by the most delicately humane for the state of moral dismemberment of the country—much admitted on account of the fears of a Government that had the solemn duty to perform of checking a popular movement, which began in sympathy with and was nourished by the success of the terrible revolution of France. If there were guilt in the Government of Ireland, the hands of others were as deeply dyed as those of the Secretary. The scheme for counteracting the designs of the popular leaders, once put in a train of execution, Lord Castlereagh was not the man to resign the post of danger. The glory or the shame of the

plans which he sanctioned or proposed, he was equally prepared for.

The debate on the State of the Nation, which almost closed the session of 1817, was memorable for being, we believe, the last material discussion in public on the Irish administration of Lord Castlereagh. In the debate which a few weeks before occurred, on the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, Sir Francis Burdett alluded to the state of Ireland, under the government of the noble Secretary, and proceeded to read to the House an affidavit of John Revey, a sufferer in 1798. The affidavit set forth several atrocities, but it certainly did not allege that they were committed by the order or with the privity of Lord Castlereagh. As soon as this affidavit was read, the ministerial side of the House became so impatient, that the Hon. Baronet was obliged to travel to other topics. His Lordship did not speak on this occasion.

Mr. Brougham opened the debate on the State of the Nation, and in the course of his speech, in allusion to the noble Lord, insinuated that his Lordship was privy to some of the scenes of horror that took place in Ireland; and added, that a man, who had been practising the torture on innocent men, obtained a bill of indemnity and a baronetcy. Lord Castlereagh repelled the attack with boldness, saying, that Mr. Brougham's description of alleged cruelties practised during the Administration of Ireland, of which he (Lord C.) had been a member, ought long since to have been the foundation of an impeachment, if they were believed to be true; and not have been reserved to be brought forward in a strain of black, malignant, and libellous insinuation, in the last day of a session.

Sir Francis Burdett and Mr. Bennett followed. They reiterated the insinuations, and referred to the affidavits which had been collected in Ireland by Mr. Finnerty, but which that gentleman was not permitted to read in mitigation of judgment.

Lord Castlereagh again claimed the attention of the House. "With respects to the facts," said he, "stated in these affidavits, it has been said that I smiled at their recital. I did, indeed, smile at their imputation; for though I felt it to be one most abhorrent to my nature, it is also one so remote from truth, that I treat it only with contempt." The Noble Secretary concluded thus---"But while I vindicate the Irish Government against the charge of inflicting torture to obtain truth, I must, at the same time, say, that I have not been present at any of the punishments in question---I have never, in the course of my life, seen any man flogged, except a soldier in my own militia regiment." A sentence from Mr. Canning, in the course of an admirable speech in the same debate,

is not the least interesting part of the proceeding.---“ What, said he, “ is the situation of my noble friend compared with that of his unnamed accusers? Men who have shared in repeated pardons, and hid their degraded heads under a general amnesty, now advance to revile the individual to whom they owed their lives. A pardoned traitor, a forgotten incendiary ---a wretch who escaped the gallows, and screened himself in humble safety only by the clemency of my noble friend, is now to be produced as the chief witness for his conviction. If the legislature has consented to bury in darkness the crimes of rebellion, is it too much that rebels, after twenty years, should forgive the crime of having been forgiven?”

HIS AMUSEMENTS.

During his visits to the Continent, Lord Castlereagh frequently sought a respite from the duties of his public situation in the charms of music. His Lordship had a remarkably good ear, and was said to be no mean performer on the flute. It was pleasantly reported of his Lordship, that, during one of the busiest periods of his ministerial career, he took lessons three times a week, from a celebrated music-master, in glee singing.

The private intercourse of the Noble Marquess with his political opponents, was strictly free from all political remembrances. After any of his adversaries had been removed by death from the scene of strife, he never failed, on the proper occasions, to mingle himself amongst the eulogists of the departed persons. His praise, on such occasions, was unaffected, and was the natural expression of one who wished to bury all animosities in oblivion, and to remember only the virtues of those who were placed beyond the power of doing injury by their errors. His observations on the death of Mr. Ponsonby and that of Mr. Grattan, are instances of the happiest union of kind feeling and good taste. The will of the Noble Marquess's father will be memorable for an amiable proof of the confidence of a father in the integrity and dutiful feelings of a son. The public acts of the Noble Marquess's life must be long the subject of deep interest. It would be idle sensibility to say that his faults, if such are to be imputed to him, ought now to be forgotten. But, perhaps, the bitterest of his enemies would not refuse to repeat over his grave that beautiful sentiment which had been ap-

plied to the late Mr. Perceval, by the political enemy of them both :

“ Oh proud was the meed his integrity won,
And generous indeed were the tears that we shed;
When in grief we forgot all the ill he had done,
And though wronged by him living, bewailed him when dead,

“ Even now, if one harsher emotion intrude,
’Tis to wish he had chosen some lowlier state:
Had known what he was—and content to be good,
Had ne’er for our RUIN aspir’d to be great.”

The Marquess of Londonderry was appointed Keeper of the Signet or Privy Seal of Ireland, July 25, 1797;—one of the Lords of the Treasury of Ireland, October 14, 1797;—Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in April, 1798;—sworn of the Privy Council, December 19, 1798; President of the Board of Controul, July 6, 1802. In 1805, he was appointed Secretary for War and Colonies; dismissed in 1806; and re-appointed in 1807. In 1811, he became Secretary for Foreign Affairs, which, as we have before stated, he held till his death.

His Lordship married, on the 9th of January, 1794, Amelia Hobart, youngest daughter and coheiress of John, second Earl of Buckinghamshire, the present Marchioness. His Lordship dying without issue, his titles and estates descend to his half-brother, Lord Stewart, the present Ambassador at the Court of Vienna. Those who delight in observing such trivial circumstances, will remark, that the day of the noble Lord’s death was his Majesty’s birth-day, and that on that day last year the deceased Minister landed with our most gracious King at the harbour of Howth, amidst loud acclamations of joy and loyalty.

It is singular, too, that Napoleon Bonaparte, the Duke of Wellington, and the Marquess of Londonderry should have been born in the same year, namely, the year 1769.

The London Gazette of Tuesday night, August 13, contains a proclamation, signed by the Marquess of Londonderry on the Friday preceding, relative to the murder of a servant of Mr. W. Warrender, near Horncastle, in the county of Lincoln, which took place on the 23d of June last. This was, perhaps, the last official document his Lordship ever signed.

It has been officially communicated to the household of the Marquess, that he has left a will, wherein he made provision for every person on his establishment, even to the lowest helper in his stables.

It was, at one time, we believe, his Lordship's wish to be buried, after his decease, in the little church of North Cray. The late Lady Ellenborough, his sister, was interred there; and when the vault for the reception of her remains was about to be made, Lord Ellenborough gave directions that it should be made large enough for two coffins; but the late Marquess requested that it might be made sufficiently capacious to receive *four*; anticipating, no doubt, that it should some day or other become the depository of himself and the Marchioness.

The remains, however, of the noble Marquess, after lying in state for several days, were removed from his house in St. James's Square, followed by the Ministers of State, principal Nobility, and private friends of his Lordship, in carriages, and interred, with funeral pomp, in Westminster Abbey, on Thursday, the 22d of August, 1822.



